

News from the Executive Director

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

December 2008

Dear Donors and Friends,

Our Most Important Message

The most important message from the Oklahoma City Community Foundation to all of you is our very sincere appreciation for our donors and supporters for all that they have helped us accomplish for the community in the past and especially this year. Stewardship of the resources that we have been given for the benefit of our community is our most important task. With the turmoil in the financial markets, the continued unrest in other parts of the world and the potential economic challenges facing many in this country, we realize how fortunate we are to have the support of so many generous individuals and families both this year and in the past. Thanks so much for all that you do.

An Opportunity to Increase Your Income and Give to Charity

The card that is enclosed with this letter describes a charitable gift annuity (CGA) which is a way for individuals who have certificates of deposit (CDs) and other cash investments to receive a much higher rate of return and also make a gift to support one or more charitable funds at the same time. In the last two years, more than 30 individuals have established CGAs through the Oklahoma City Community Foundation and several have established more than one CGA. The enclosed card illustrates how a CGA can provide interest income to you during your life and then benefit a charitable fund or funds of your choice at your death. While a number of charities offer this giving opportunity, we are able to have your gift benefit any charity or group of charities that you select... and you can change your mind at a later date. Please review the card or visit www.occf.org for more information. Joe Carter on our staff would be happy to visit with you about a CGA. You can reach him at 606-2914.

Individual Retirement Account Giving

Recently, Congress extended the IRA Charitable Rollover option for 2008 and 2009. If you are 70½ and have an individual retirement account, you may make a gift of up to \$100,000 from the account directly to a charity without having to recognize the distribution as income. This type of gift must benefit either organizational endowments or scholarship funds and is a very nice opportunity to make gifts with retirement funds. If this opportunity sounds familiar, that's because it is an extension of an identical opportunity in 2006 and 2007 from which we received several distributions to benefit a number of endowments. For more information, please visit www.occf.org or contact Jennifer Stewart (606-2912) or Joe Carter (606-2914).

Kirkpatrick Centennial Challenge

A total of 293 organizations and scholarship funds have an opportunity for a dollar-for-dollar match for their endowments at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. For most, the deadline to receive the match is December 31, 2008. Approximately 50 organizations have completed the match and many more are actively seeking gifts from individuals to meet the deadline. More than \$500,000 has been raised so far and we have welcomed almost 1,000 new donors who have been attracted to the matching grant opportunity. This endowment building effort is a joint project of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation and the Kirkpatrick Family Fund in celebration of the 100th anniversary of John E. Kirkpatrick's birth. Mr. Kirkpatrick would have been thrilled by the response to this challenge. If you are interested in making a matching gift, please contact either Kenneth Conklin (606-2926) or Gayle Farley (606-2910) or visit our Web site at www.occf.org and make an online gift.

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Year-End Endowment Distributions and Grants

On October 2, we hosted more than 350 non-profit and scholarship fund representatives for an annual reporting and distribution reception. More than \$3 million in checks were given to the charities from the endowment funds we administer. The checks represented an increase of about 3 percent over the previous year, which was good news for many of the organizations. The spending rule that is used to determine the annual endowment distributions provides a predictable source of income from one year to the next. It is years like 2008 that make us appreciate the wisdom of that approach.

New Web site

If you haven't visited our Web site recently, I encourage you to go to www.occf.org and see the new look. We have updated the graphics, reorganized the information and added some features that we hope will be helpful. Neil Cambre, our graphic designer, did all of the design and programming work. We believe that the information on the site is much easier to find and that many of the new features will be much more useful to donors and professional advisors. We continue to offer an online giving feature that allows you to make a gift to any fund at any time with a major credit card. This feature is being used increasingly especially for memorials, matching gifts and special donations. You can go directly to www.occf.org/onlinegiving to make a gift.

OKC Thunder and Cox Connects Start Funds

We are very pleased to announce that the OKC Thunder has established an advised fund that will be used for team members and staff to make charitable contributions that will then be pooled and distributed back out to a variety of community organizations. We are happy to help the OKC Thunder get started in Oklahoma City and facilitate the charitable giving of their employees.

Cox Communications employees support the Cox Connects Foundation fund at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation to recommend both scholarship awards and classroom grants in the Oklahoma City area. Cox matches the gifts of its employees and allow employees to review and recommend grant distributions. Our staff meets with the employee groups to facilitate the process. These organizations have encouraged employees to both give and volunteer. We are happy to be part of their efforts to support others in our community.

Again, we are very grateful for all of the support we have received from our donors. If we can help you in any way with year-end giving, the Kirkpatrick Challenge, a planned gift, or anything else, please feel free to call.

Best wishes for the coming new year.



Nancy B. Anthony